

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00099 021631Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /103 W
----- 080120

R 021556Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 688

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: EXPLORATORY UDA-SDLP TALK FAILS

1. HERALDED MEETING LEADERS ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HELD AFTERNOON AUGUST 1 AT SUBURBAN BELFAST HOTEL. UDA RELEASED STATEMENT EARLY EVENING TO EFFECT TALK HAD FOUNDERED ON ROCK REFUSAL SDLP DELEGATION ABANDON PUBLICLY ANY ASPIRATIONS FOR UNITED IRELAND. UDA STATEMENT CONTINUED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO FURTHER TALKS, UDA WOULD WORK TO EXPOSE SDLP HYPOCRISY AND SDLP MUST NOW RPT NOW BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE.

2. T. LYTTLE UDA AND GERARD FITT SDLP APPEARED LATER IN SEPARATE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS. FITT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND SHOCK AT SUBSTANCE AND TONE UDA STATEMENT. HE SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED WITHHOLD PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESULTS OF MEETING. BOTH LYTTLE AND FITT DESCRIBED ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING CORDIAL. FITT REFUSED CONFIRM OR DENY SDLP HAD REJECTED ANY ULTIMATUM ON "ALL-IRISH INSTITUTIONS." LYTTLE REFUSED COMMENT ON WHAT FITT DESCRIBED AS "DISCUSSION WHOLE SPECTRUM NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM."

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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE PROBABLY WILL BE NO RPT NO MORE

UDA-SDLP MEETINGS IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE, CONGEN DOES NOT RPT
NOT COMPLETELY SHARE PRESS GLOOM ABOUT CONCILIATION ATTEMPTS.
CUMULATIVE WEARINESS OF GENERAL POPULATION FURTHERING DEVELOP-
MENT ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO MORE RATHER THAN FEWER ATTEMPTS
AT CONCILIATION. UNFORTUNATELY OUTCOME MEETING PROBABLY
FORECASTS DEVELOPMENTS FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
UNLESS POLITICAL LEADERS CAN RAPIDLY ACHIEVE UNPRECEDENTED
FLEXIBILITY AND WILL TO ACCOMMODATE. CONGEN FINDS INTERESTING
SCENARIO PREDICTED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL SOURCE. HE FORESEES
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FAILING. FOLLOWING FAILURE HE
ENVISAGES EITHER BRITISH-ENFORCED POWER-SHARING IN RETURN FOR
CONTINUED BRITISH INVOLVEMENT OR SERIOUS POSSIBILITY BRITISH
WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND.
SPICER

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